

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An injection catheter for direct injection into a body tissue comprising:
  - an injection tube having a first channel and a piercing tip, the first channel in fluid communication with a pressure source; and
  - a pressure apron,
  - the injection tube slidably placed in the pressure apron and moveable from a first position to a second position,
  - the pressure apron having a tissue-mating surface,
  - the piercing tip extending beyond the tissue-mating surface in the second position,
  - the first channel in fluid communication with a plug forming material.
2. (Original) The injection catheter of claim 1, wherein the injection tube has a second channel.
3. (Original) The injection catheter of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a catheter wall surrounding the injection tube and coupled to the pressure apron.
4. (Original) The injection catheter of claim 1, wherein the pressure apron includes an adhesive on at least a portion of one of its surfaces.
5. (Original) The injection catheter of claim 1, wherein the pressure apron is in the form of a truncated cone.
6. (Original) The injection catheter of claim 1, wherein the pressure apron includes a biocompatible polymeric material selected from silicones, nylons, urethanes, polyamides, polyimides, elastomers, or combinations thereof.
7. (Original) The injection catheter of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a second injection tube slidably placed in the pressure apron.

8. (Currently Amended) An injection device for direct injection into a body tissue comprising:
  - a catheter with a lumen;
  - a pressure apron coupled to the catheter and surrounding the lumen; and,
  - a piercing tip retractably positioned within the lumen and extendable from the pressure apron,
  - the pressure apron having a tissue-mating surface adaptable to sealably engage a target tissue,
  - the piercing tip having at least a first channel, the first channel in fluid communication with a plug forming material.
9. (Original) The injection device of claim 8, wherein the piercing tip has a first channel and a second channel, the first and second channels in fluid communication with a pressure source.
10. (Currently Amended) The injection device of claim 8, wherein a channel coupled to the piercing tip contains therapeutic material.
11. (Canceled).
12. (Original) The injection device of claim 8, wherein the pressure apron has an adhesive on one of its surface.
13. (Original) The injection device of claim 12, wherein the adhesive is selected from polysaccharides, cellulose, hydrogels, aliginate, or combinations thereof.
14. (Original) The injection device of claim 8 wherein the target tissue is the myocardium.
15. (Currently Amended) A medical kit for delivering a therapeutic material comprising:
  - a catheter having a channel, and a piercing tip,

the piercing tip in fluid communication with a pressure source,  
the piercing tip slidably placed in the channel, the channel in fluid  
communication with a plug forming material;  
a pressure apron coupled to the catheter and having a tissue-mating source; and  
a therapeutic material.

16. (Original) The kit of claim 15, wherein the piercing tip has a first lumen and a second lumen, the first lumen and the second lumen slidable relative to one another.
17. (Original) The kit of claim 15, wherein the pressure apron sealably engages the catheter.
18. (Original) The kit of claim 15, wherein the pressure apron includes an adhesive on a least a portion of one of its surfaces.
19. (Original) The kit of claim 15, wherein the pressure apron is in the form of a truncated cone.
20. (Original) The kit of claim 15, wherein the pressure apron includes a biocompatible polymeric material selected from silicones, nylons, urethanes, polyamides, polyimides, elastomers, polyetherblockamide or combinations thereof.
21. (Currently Amended) A system for preventing leakage of material from a body tissue during the injection of a therapeutic material comprising:
  - a catheter with a lumen;
  - a pressure apron surrounding the lumen; and,
  - a piercing tip retractably positioned within the lumen,
    - the pressure apron having a tissue-mating surface,
    - the piercing tip having at least one channel, the channel in fluid  
communication with a plug forming material.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein the piercing tip has a ~~first~~ plurality of channels ~~and a second channel~~, the plurality of first and second channels in fluid communication with a pressure source.
23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein ~~a the first~~ channel of the piercing tip contains a therapeutic material ~~and the second channel of the piercing tip contains a plug forming material~~.
24. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the pressure apron has an adhesive on at least a portion of one of its surfaces.
25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the adhesive is selected from polysacharides, cellulose, hydrogels, aliginate, or combinations thereof.
26. (New) The injection catheter of claim 1, wherein the pressure apron is detachable from the injection catheter.
27. (New) The injection catheter of claim 2, wherein the first channel is longitudinally-positioned substantially parallel to the second channel.